There Are Reasons to Have Estate Planning in Order

Submitted by Dale R.

in order. your financial and medical affairs Tonsider the stress you can your family, by having eliminate, for yourself and

savings in avoiding a \$5,000 bill for a court guardian—conser-Consider, too, the cost

vatorship proceeding by executing financial and medical which many attorneys do not suggest or even understand the lengthy time delays by utilizing available techniques estimated \$2,000 to \$5,000 cost of a court probate and powers of attorney. Then, realize a further savings of an

MOST PLANS DO NOT NIED to exoluding a trust

with only an original death certificate. stated typically in most advertising. to plan. Common myths are a will is guide to clearly state your distribution Start getting educated today. your estate is more than \$75,000, as your property, or you need a trust if required so the state does not receive These statements are just not true. plan to be carried out, or it you fail Yes, you need a will, but only as a It is now possible to settle most estates

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amounts of fees for unneeded services. consumer-friendly state and one of Arizona is probably the most efficient planning. Statutes are in place for low-cost and whom you do not need to pay large the most unfriendly to attorneys to



assist with initial services in an emergency situation. authority to speak to your medical professionals, and to allow your trusted family and friends to have immediate the primary reason for a medical power of attorney is to one person to act. This design is wrong, in my opinion, as almost every document I am asked to review names only With respect to medical powers of attorney (POA),

I recommend having multiple appointees, including your appointees may be close friends, if you so choose. spouse, and, in most situations, all of your children and obtain access and copies to all medical records. Therefore, frequently visited out-of-state family members. Other most important reason is to have immediate authority to To facilitate your treatment and care, the second

contact your family. When asked about the need for a contact person who will give immediate assistance and medical POA, almost everyone says the most important If you do not have family in town, try to name a local

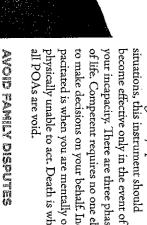
> and medical professionals make around 45 percent. The is this only happens no more than 5 percent of the time. happens at end-of-life situations. remaining 5 percent is, indeed, important but usually only You personally make about 50 percent of the decisions, reason is to make decisions. However, my understanding

the hospital of your decision on end-of-life pulling understand the risk of such decisions. Normally, DNRs very worried that some of you have executed Do Not of the plug or living will. Just a personal note, I am have an assisted suicide law. are limited to hospice arrangements. Arizona does not Resuscitate, or DNR documents, and really do not The other reason for a medical POA is to advise

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the same as giving a blank check to someone. This design I am asked to review is effective upon execution. This is With respect to financial POAs, almost every document

to make decisions on your behalf. Incaof life. Competent requires no one else your incapacity. There are three phases become effective only in the event of is also wrong, in my opinion. In most physically unable to act. Death is when pacitated is when you are mentally or situations, this instrument should



have done comprehensive planning. proper plan to distribute tangible family disputes by establishing the My approach includes steps to avoid involved, and make them aware you personal property, get your family

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